

by a study of this query, but upon a more careful perusal of its several requirements, and as a whole we find contained therein much food for earnest thought, and sentiments of the loftiest character, which, if put in practice, would do much in lifting humanity to that high standard of practical Christianity taught and exemplified by Jesus, who was ever found among the poor, the lame, and the blind, always in meekness and love, administering to their necessities, be it physical, temporal, or spiritual.

And it seems to me so applicable to the subject in consideration are the words to His disciples, found in Matt. 25th chap., 40th verse, as follows: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me," a declaration plain in construction, simple in teaching, yet so broad in its application to the lives and duties of mankind one toward another, that much of its real significance is many times overlooked.

To give a cup of cold water to a thirst fellow-being seems, and really is, a very little thing to do, but Jesus says it is not without its reward if given in His name. Very few of us, yes, may I not say *none* of us, can consider ourselves exempt from the requirements of this query. Do not opportunities for doing good present themselves to every one at almost every turn in life, the doing of which might be the means of making brighter and happier the lives of those about us?

The question is, will we take cognizance of such opportunities, and receive the blessing which their performance is always sure to bring us? It is not in the line of *practical* Christianity to always wait until the opportunity presents itself, but *seek* to know the needs, and *harken*, lest in a moment of heedlessness we hear not the cry and hasten to the rescue of some poor soul, whose frail barque, wrecked upon the great sea of life, must soon sink into the great whirlpool of sin and vice, from which it may never rise.

Do we not sometimes sit and think with an air of complacency of the circumstances and condition of those of our own community, and comment with pleasure upon the fact that there are none needing assistance? Can such a state or condition exist at any time in any community? If we would take but a momentary view of the requirements of our query, such condition may exist, though they certainly are the exception. But we believe that those to whom it was given to frame our discipline, with hearts filled with the love of God and love to man, and earnestly desire that the physical, mental, moral, as well as the spiritual condition of the whole human family might be administered to and lifted to a higher plain of life, and thus be brought nearer truth as it is in Christ Jesus, endeavored as much as lay in their power to lay down for the succeeding generations such lines of duty as to them seemed essential, not only for the upholding and maintenance of the principles fundamental of our Society, but which would, if adhered to and carried out in our lives, bring the world to know that, "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent."

With these thoughts in mind we readily perceive that the needs of humanity are not all simplified with money, though rightly used, it is a very important factor conducive to happiness. But the possession of wealth alone cannot produce happiness. For whenever there is an hungering soul, a sorrowing heart, or an uneasy mind, true happiness cannot exist.

Then to feed the hungry, to cheer the sorrowing, support the weary, and in every way we can brighten the burdens of those about us, becomes the duty of every one, and especially of those who are members of a religious organization.

I believe it has been said that all men are *born* with equal opportunities for rising. Whether this be true or